



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

## **Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish**

Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**SUNDAY May 3, 2020**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

In the past few weeks, the gospels have invited us to consider how Jesus can be *touched* (even in the age of social distancing) and how he can be *recognized* by those who are his disciples. This week, we see that Jesus can also be entered: There is a "Christ experience" available for those who believe. The restlessness of living in Covid-19 times finds a landing today. Jesus often used the imagery of shepherds and sheep to show his care for others. The Gospel today plays with that image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In that image of shepherd, the Scriptures try to describe the kind of relationship that God wants to entertain with each of us. What the psalm really tries to especially express for us is the faith experience that may come over us when, in all our searching and restlessness, we dare to give ourselves over to God.

In John's Gospel today we get a mixed metaphor of Jesus being both the shepherd and the gate. God's presence becomes a protective presence: he is our shepherd; he guides us along the right path. In Him, our drooping spirits, weary and searching, find comfort and rest and are given life again. His presence to us is life-giving and nurturing; for he leads us to fresh and green pastures, and to restful waters. He is worthy of our trust, for he is true to his name. Therefore, we have no reason to fear the threatening forces within us or outside of us; they will not swallow us up, they will not destroy us. We rely on God's protection and comforting presence. What is more, this protection and comforting presence of God to each of us affirms all that we are; it gives us a sense of dignity, it gives us a sense of our own worth that no one can take from us. That same God generously supplies us with what is lacking in our lives, showing us goodness and kindness. He raises us up, giving us a place in his own house, a share in his own life. Indeed, the Lord is my shepherd.

In the end, dear people of God, it is rather quite simple. Our Christian faith is about us knowing we are cared for, that we know ourselves held and sustained by a God who has become a God-for-and-with us-people. The image of God as a Good Shepherd is not meant to work as a tranquilizer. There may still be times that we can hardly get these words over our lips. We may, only after many tears and much sweating, come to the place where we generously respond to the God who will not let us stumble and fall; and even if we do fall, that God will still be there as one who lifts us up and puts us on our feet again.

Remember this...Jesus, the Good Shepherd, says his sheep know his voice and follow him. How good are you at recognizing the voice of the Lord in your life? Does it come through loud and clear, or is it distorted by the noise of your life? Are there too many other competing voices of work and worry and family and commitments for you to hear God's words to you? Or are you able to hear those whispered words of God in and through your work and family and daily living? Happy Good Shepherd Sunday and pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life and baptized ministry in the church, to serve the Good Shepherd and the world. And may these words of Leo Tolstoy awaken in you something beautiful for God... *suddenly I heard the words of Christ and understood them, and life and death ceased to seem to be evil, and instead of despair I experienced happiness and the joy of life undisturbed by death.*

God our shepherd, you promise your people the gift of your Spirit,  
Father William

#### OFFICE HOURS

Open for phone and email Tuesday to Friday

**Fr. William Hann, Pastor**

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## A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: **Diocese of Victoria** or go to [www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream).

SUNDAY ..... 10 AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY ..... 7 PM

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In solidarity with Pope Francis, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCC), and a number of Episcopal Conferences throughout the world, Bishop Gary Gordon will consecrate the Diocese of Victoria to Mary, Mother of the Church **on Friday, May 1, 2020, following the Mass at 7:00pm with Bishop Gary Gordon at St. Andrew's Cathedral - live streamed via the Diocesan website:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRinXZ2d6GBMpnDM7boVICA>

Also, please find below the link to a letter addressed to all the faithful from the Holy Father for the month of May, issued on 25 April 2020. In this encouraging letter, Pope Francis invites everyone to pray the Rosary at home and offers two prayers to be recited at its conclusion.

English: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>



## CONDOLENCES

On Monday, April 27th we lost another dear and long time parishioner of Holy Cross, Dr. Charlotte Girard. Charlotte can be remembered fondly, sitting with Clive and Carmel Loader in the third centre row at the Sunday morning mass. In recent years, Charlotte lived at St. Charles Manor. Charlotte was a part of our parish for many years, and was even a member of the choir at one time. We remember her and her family in our prayers during this time.

A funeral for Charlotte will be held at a later date.

For the latest updates, memos and information please check our parish website frequently:

[www.holycrossvictoria.org](http://www.holycrossvictoria.org)



holy cross church garden head rd. Victoria, b.c.

## COLLECTION for April 26, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes            | \$ 2,455.00        |
| Pre-authorized Debit | \$ 1,163.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>\$ 3,618.00</b> |

## OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Father William has created a **YouTube** page and a **Facebook** page for the combined St. Patrick's and Holy Cross families! Please visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsHolyCross/>

**Like and follow the page and please do send photos of the church for posting!**

**Live Mass broadcast this Sunday!** Sunday Mass will be broadcast from St. Patrick's Parish on Sunday, May 3rd at 9:00am on the YouTube page.

Click the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5NzsSMWmOTJe7UdReKf6Kw>

**Please subscribe to the page for future Masses!**

## SERVING SOUP TO THE HUNGRY

Did you know the Soup Kitchen is an essential service, and continues to provide food to those in need during the current pandemic. In this challenging time, we offer soup-to-go bagged meal service, and observe physical distancing and other prescribed practices in fulfilling our community mission.

The Soup Kitchen is located in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral, and is open Monday to Friday, from 8:00 to 10:00 am.

We wish to extend our thanks, and appreciation, to the numerous volunteers and donors who have graciously supported our operations for more than 30 years. Further information is available at: [www.thesoupkitchen.ca](http://www.thesoupkitchen.ca)

## VIRUS-FREE BASKETS AND TOMATOES

Geraniums also available, **hanging baskets \$45, 3 varieties tomato \$3.50, 4 coloured geraniums \$5**. NO TAXES, all proceeds to Mount Saint Mary's Hospital Call now to arrange pick-up May 15—25th. Thanks for your support, Ellis 250-477-6754